

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-10

CPR-01 /072 W

----- 077273

R 281400Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4607

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0493

E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS :SOCI, PFOR, SF, US

SUBJ :SAG LEGISLATION RE: EQUAL ACCOMODATIONS
FOR FOREIGN BLACKS

REF :CAPE TOWN 449 OF AUGUST 16,1974

1. LIQUOR AMENDMENT BILL, WHICH INTRODUCED BY MINISTER OF JUSTICE INTO PARLIAMENT AUGUST 1974 AND IMMEDIATELY REFERRED TO SELECT COMMITTEE(REFTEL), HAS NOW BEEN REPORTED OUT WITH SOME MODIFICATIONS. AS EXPECTED, TEXT OF NEW BILL INDICATES THAT CURRENT ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS APPLYING TO USE BY FOREIGN BLACKS OF HOTELS AND HOTEL FACILITIES WILL BE CODIFIED. IN EFFECT, THESE REGULATIONS HOLD THAT HOTELS MAY SERVE LIQUOR AND OFFER OTHER ACCOMODATIONS TO VISITING BLACK OFFICIALS AND TOURISTS(BUT NOT ALIEN WORKERS) WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL OF MINISTRY OF JUSTICE.

2. NEW BILL ALSO SEEMS TO INDICATE THAT GOVERNMENT HAS, TO A DEGREE, LOOSENED ITS POSITION REGARDING HOTEL
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APARTHEID FOR SOME SOUTH AFRICAN BLACKS. BE TERMS OF NEW

LEGISLATION, MINISTER OF JUSTICE WILL BE GIVEN DISCRETION TO GRANT YEARLY PERMITS TO THOSE HOTELS WHICH APPLY, TO ADMIT AND SERVE SOUTH AFRICAN BLACKS, COLOREDS, AND INDIANS. CURRENT SPECULATION IS THAT MINISTER WILL USE THIS AUTHORITY TO OPEN LIMITED NUMBER OF FIVE-STAR (LUXURY) HOTELS IN MAJOR CITIES TO ACCOMMODATE WEALTHY BLACKS AND HOMELAND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

3. THERE HAS BEEN SOME COMMENT IN SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS THAT NEW BILL CONSTITUTES MAJOR 'MOVE AWAY FROM DISCRIMINATION AS PROMISED BY UN AMBASSADOR BOTHA AND OTHERS. EMBASSY PREFERS TO WITHHOLD JUDGEMENT ON THIS UNTIL REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE IS PUBLISHED AND BILL IS DEBATED IN PARLIAMENT. THESE EVENTS MAY GIVE BETTER INDICATION OF HOW GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO IMPLEMENT NEW LEGISLATION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, APARTHEID, HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS, LEGISLATIVE BILLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CAPET00493
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750148-0847
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975048/aaaaahmq.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 CAPE TOWN 449, 75 OF AUGUST 16, 75 974
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUL 2003 by maginmm>; APPROVED <10 FEB 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: :SAG LEGISLATION RE: EQUAL ACCOMODATIONS FOR FOREIGN BLACKS
TAGS: SOCI, PFOR, SF, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006